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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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JH

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June 12, 2001

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
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Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
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Supervisor Don Knabe
From: *David E. Janssen*
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**ASSEMBLY BILL 935 (HERTZBERG) - PUBLIC INTEREST ATTORNEY LOAN
REPAYMENT PROGRAM - (ITEM NO. 12, AGENDA OF JUNE 12, 2001)**

Item Number 12 on your agenda for Tuesday, June 12, 2001, is a motion by Supervisor Burke to support AB 935 (Hertzberg). As amended on April 16, 2001, AB 935 establishes the Public Interest Attorney Loan Repayment Program (Program) that is intended to repay student loans of licensed attorneys who practice or agree to practice in public interest areas of the law in California.

Specifically, AB 935 requires the Student Aid Commission to administer the Program which allows quarterly payments to a qualified applicant for the repayment of student loans. A qualified applicant must be licensed as an attorney in California, work in the public interest area of the law, and must have applied for existing loan repayment programs but failed to receive any loan repayment or receive a partial loan repayment.

Employment in a public interest area of the law, includes providing direct or indirect legal services to a legal services organization (over 50 percent of their clientele are low-income persons according to applicable federal income guidelines), employment with a prosecuting attorney's office, or criminal public defender organization or program.

On May 30, 2000 your Board approved Supervisor Burke's motion to support two Federal bills, S 2423 (Durbin) and HR 4290 (Campbell), that allowed public defenders to qualify for forgiveness of student loans. **Therefore, consistent with prior Board policy, we recommend support of AB 935.**

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On June 4, 2001, AB 935 passed out of the Assembly on a vote of 53-21 and is in the Senate waiting to be assigned to a policy committee. AB 935 is supported by Advocates for Public Interest Law, California Public Defenders, California Teamsters Public Affairs Council, East Bay Community Law Center, Inner City Law Center, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, among others. There is no opposition on record.

DEJ:GK
JL:md

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Legislative Strategist